

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 HA-05 EB-08

/080 W

-----038115 031325Z /40

R 022149Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5036

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, NU

SUBJECT: SOMOZA'S ADDRESS TO THE NATION

SUMMARY: SOMOZA GAVE MUCH-ANTICIPATED REPORT TO NATION ON TV AND RADIO ON DEC 1. HE SUMMARIZED ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE OF THE THREE YEARS OF HIS CURRENT TERM IN OFFICE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED ACCEPTANCE OF DIALOG AND THAT CABINET CHANGES WOULD BE ANNOUNCED BEFORE END OF THE YEAR. HE SAID THE COUNTRY IS AT PEACE AND IF REVOLUTIONARIES TRIED ANY FURTHER ATTACKS THE NATIONAL GUARD (G,) WOULD NEUTRALIZE THEM SO EVERYONE COULD ENJOY A MERRY CHRISTMAS. END SUMMARY

1. PRESIDENT SOMOZA'S DEC 1 ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON COMPLETION OF THE THIRD YEAR IN HIS CURRENT TERM WAS ANTI-CLIMATIC TO THOSE WHO WERE AWAITING WORD ON THE RUMORED IMPENDING CABINET HOUSECLEANING. THE 20 MINUTE PRERECORDED SPEECH WAS REplete WITH STATISTICS AND DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS INTENDED TO PROVE NICARAGUA IS PROGRESSING ECONOMICALLY AND THE GON IS MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY IN SOCIAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS TO BENEFIT RURAL FARMERS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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2. SOMOZA CITED THE GON'S SUCCESS IN MAINTAINING ORDER DESPITE FSLN TERRORIST ATTACKS IN DECEMBER 1974 AND LAST OCTOBER. HE SAID THESE ACTIONS FAILED BECAUSE OF SUPPORT BY THE PEOPLE AND THE DISCIPLINE OF THE GN. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT ATTACKS, GROUPS OF CITIZENS INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING THE PACE HAD INVITED THE LIBERAL PARTY AND THE GON TO PARTICIPATE IN A DIALOG WHICH THEY

HAVE ACCEPTED FOLLOWING THE FEBRUARY 1978 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. HE STATED THAT THE INSCRIPTION OF NEARLY HALF THE POPULATION (OVER 900,000 ACCORDING TO THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL CONFIRMS THE DESIRE OF THE PEOPLE FOR PACIFIC, CIVIC AND DEMOCRATIC SOLUTIONS TO POLITICAL ISSUES.

3. HE SAID THERE IS NO BASIS FOR RUMORS OF DEVALUATION OF THE CORDOBA.

4. REGARDING CABINET CHANGES, SOMOZA STATED HE HAD RECEIVED THE RESIGNATIONS OF THE CABINET AND THE HEADS OF AUTONOMOUS ENTITIES SO HE COULD REORGANIZE THE ADMINISTRATION WHICH HAD BEEN URGED BY MANY PEOPLE. THE REORGANIZATION, HE SAID, WOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE END OF DECEMBER.

5. IN CONCLUSION, SOMOZA REFERRED TO EXTENSIVE SPECULATION REGARDING PEACE IN NICARAGUA. HE SAID THE ONLY FORCE LEFT TO THOSE WHO FOMENT VIOLENCE IS PROPAGANDA. IF THERE IS ANY DISTURBANCE, SOMOZA SAID, THE GN HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS POWER AND ITS FORTITUDE TO NEUTRALIZE IT. HIS FINAL LINE WAS THAT NOTHING WILL HAPPEN HERE AND YOU CAN ALL ENJOY A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

5. COMMENT: THE ADDRESS FOR THE MOST PART WAS A WELL-FORMULATED IF SOMEWHAT PEDANTIC EXPOSITION OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE REGIME. IT WAS ALSO CONCILIATORY IN ITS DESCRIPTION OF THE MOTIVATION OF THOSE WHO HAVE PROMOTED THE INITIATIVE FOR A DIALOGUE AND FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHANGES IN THE GOVERNMENT. IT WAS ONLY IN THE CLOSING REMARKS THAT A STRAIN OF "MACHISMO" APPEARED. IN EFFECT, SOMOZA CHALLENGED THE SANDINISTA REVOLUTIONARIES TO TRY TO DISRUPT THE ELECTION AND DIALOGUE PROCESSES AND WHAT HE CHARACTERIZED AS THE PEOPLE'S DEMONSTRATED DESIRE FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS.
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